

Comment on the proposed conservation of the specific names of *Aphodius rufus* (Moll, 1782), *A. foetidus* (Herbst, 1783) and *Aegialia rufa* (Fabricius, 1792) (Insecta, Coleoptera)

(Case 2878; see BZN 51: 121–127, 340–341; 52: 71–73, 123–125)

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I am in complete agreement with the application by Krell, Stebnicka & Holm. The authors have clearly and correctly presented the facts concerning this difficult problem and they have put forward the solution which serves stability in zoological nomenclature.

At least two of the species discussed, *Aphodius rufus* (Moll, 1782) and *A. foetidus* (Herbst, 1783), are widespread in almost the whole of Europe and adjacent parts of Asia and their names appear not just in taxonomic studies, but with increasing frequency, in ecological studies, local faunal lists, red data books, and the like.

I have given the Commission Secretariat a list of 10 additional references in which all the names are used, but I can supply 30 further citations if requested.

Alternative solutions mentioned, for example that in Dellacasa's second alternative (BZN 51: 340–341), even though perhaps formally correct, have been used only sporadically.

Comments on the proposed conservation of some mammal generic names first published in Brisson's (1762) *Regnum Animale*

(Case 2928; see BZN 51: 135–146, 266 267, 342 348; 52: 78 93, 187 192, 271 275, 347–350)

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I fully agree with the application to conserve 11 of Brisson's (1762) generic names for mammals and am happy to support it.

I note that the application (para. 5, BZN 51: 138) seeks the conservation of the name *Cuniculus* Brisson, 1762 for the South American pacas and that, if the proposal is not approved by the Commission, *Cuniculus* Brisson would be unavailable and the junior homonym *Cuniculus* Meyer, 1790 would become a valid name. Meyer's name relates to the European rabbit and would replace the well-known and universally used, but junior, name *Oryctolagus* Lilljeborg, 1874.

I worked on the rabbit for some years and have supplied the Commission Secretariat with a representative list of 11 papers (1985–1994) which demonstrate the usage of the name *Oryctolagus*. I am fully in agreement with maintaining the generic name *Oryctolagus* and would oppose any move to replace it with *Cuniculus*.